

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the abstract on page 46 with the following new abstract:

ABSTRACT

Diagnostic and surgical procedures may be performed on a beating heart using an assembly which includes a port and a fluid transport device. The port has a housing for insertion through a wall of the heart chamber and may include one valve disposed in the housing and an inlet connected to the housing. Methods for repair and diagnosis of the heart are also described. A specific method for repairing a mitral valve uses staples which may be banded together with a strip of material.